BULLETIN from

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service & 38 Bank Street

Vol. XI September 1, 1943 No. 17

JUVENILE SUPPLEMENT: No. 15

FOR THE PICTURE BOOK AGE

Rey, H.A. WHERE'S MY BABY? Houghton, Mifflin

Companion volume to *Anybody At Home?* - but not as successful a book - or could it be, perhaps, that the idea, once or twice or three times seen, becomes stale? I felt that the drawings were not as good, and the human figures were particularly bad. However, small fry like the recognition element of the surprise feature in the book, and there's a definite vocabulary building factor in identification of the young of the animal world as pictures of a horse, a hen, a sheep, a duck, etc. open up to show a colt, chickens, lambs, and so on. There's one inaccuracy which will prove a hurdle for mothers to take, in that the "verse" that goes with the hen and chickens picture refers to "one to ten" baby chicks, and there are nineteen. Try to explain that to a four year old who is learning to count! (~~8/26~~) 10/19 $1.00

GRADUATING TO PICTURE STORY BOOKS

Paull, Grace A SQUASH FOR THE FAIR Doubleday, Doran

A Victory Garden book, with a text that is just too hard for use as a primer (the predecessor, *Raspberry Patch*, had - as I remember it - a vocabulary that was better keyed to beginning readers). Story of Mary Jane who grows a squash and wins a Blue Ribbon at the school fair. I have liked some of her other books better than this one; the caricature type of drawing may have appeal for the Betty Boop fans. But I'm not one of them. (8/20) $1.50

Steiner, Charlotte KIKI AND MUFFY Doubleday, Doran

The creator of *Lulu* has a more juvenile character in Kiki, who goes -this time - to the country, and thinks a real cat is another kitty muff such as she has at home. She learns fast - and has pleasant adventures with the kittens. (9/3) $1.25

Robinson, Tom MR. RED SQUIRREL Viking

The text of this is a cut above picture story book age, but the format places it in that age group. Good looking book, stiff board covers, color throughout. It is the sort of story that grows out of little girls' makebelieve being grown up - and Miss Leila Brooks, the heroine, has a tea party for a red squirrel and gives him the nuts she had saved for him when the tree with his home was cut down. Cute idea - not wholly successful, but well above average. Kurt Wiese pictures: (9/10) $1.50

BOOKS TO READ ALOUD

Buck, Pearl THE WATER-BUFFALO CHILDREN John Day

* I liked this story of the friendship between the American children and "the water-buffalo children" and their adventures that *maybe* grew out of the magic stone. Lovely looking book with pictures in black and white on virtually all of the 60 pages - by William A. Smith. Pearl Buck does not write down when she tells might-be-true stories from her childhood in China. (9/9) $1.50

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Bedier Julie A HORSE FOR CHRISTMAS Longmans, Green

Another story of the Chinese mission where Thomas and Anna, small Chinese orphans, took refuge with the good Sisters in *The Long Road to Lo - Ting*. Each one of these books has had the real feel of Chinese life and people and customs, and a certain quality of the basic goodness and understanding - yes and humor - of the nuns. Anna and her chum, Barbara, "borrow" a paper funeral horse from the place next door, and cause plenty of excitement at the rehearsal for the Christmas play. But it all comes out satisfactorily, for all concerned. Pictures by Louise Trevisan. (9/1) $1.00

FIRST STEPS IN READING - Story Books

LeGrand AUGUSTUS HELPS THE MARINES Bobbs-Merrill

* These Augustus stories are cut to a pattern, perhaps, but the pattern is a popular one, and Augustus continues to be a very live small boy, whose adventures are dream fulfillment for most boys of his age. He has helped the Navy and helped the Army; now his Dad, tiring of Georgia and the construction job on an Army camp, uproots the family once again, and they move to Florida, where he gets a job on a Marine camp. And Augustus has another exciting adventure, this time in locating a secret seaplane base, just in time to save a Marine transport. The Army episode had a bit more to recommend it than any of the others; but the addicts will like this, too. (Publ.) $2.00

Lederer, Charlotte YANKO IN AMERICA Crowell

An Americanization story, good as far as it goes, but it would have more permanent value if the adaption and acceptance element had been more realistic. As it is, the Czech family who come to Westchester County, New York, to live, have almost too easy a time fitting into the new environment. There are the initial problems of clothes and language, of loneliness, but in a flick of an eyelash, practically, they have arrived, are successful and popular and established. The best phase of the book is that dealing with the native arts and crafts, and their place in America. Illustrated in color by the author. (9/?) $2.00

Mason, Miriam E. TIMOTHY HAD IDEAS Macmillan

Tim was a brown cocker with more curiosity and ambition than his six brothers and sisters, and this is his story. He has an adventurous life, finding out for himself the things he can do, the things he can't do (such as climbing trees); cats and Big Dogs play a part in his education, and his owner, seeing into a small dog's mind, has a real place in his life. The Hader pictures are not yet available, but this is sure to be a popular puppy book, with a text that third graders can read. (10/5) $1.50

Wells, Peter THE PIRATE'S APPRENTICE Winston

* This is an excellent adaptation of the comic strip technique to an amusing and original sort of book. It could be classed as a picture story book, for the text is slight, but it has enough substance - with the aid of the amusing and gay pictures, to have some value as a first reader. The author of *Mr. Tootwhistle's Invention* has a gift for story telling, adventure and humor that is too rare today. Here's a pirate story with a well-concealed moral. Good merchandise - plus sound values. (9/?) $1.25

STORY BOOKS FOR THE 9 - 12's

Evatt, Harriet THE SECRET OF THE RUBY LOCKET Bobbs-Merrill

The mystery element in this realistic story of a little girl on an Ohio farm may prove a good sales angle, but actually, as a mystery it is pretty slim. Good

background of farm life and of the children's responsibilities, to which Sary adds a warm-heartedness that will not be blocked by the frigidity of her reception by the soured old woman in the big dark house. One could wish that the children had a few human faults, but the story on the whole is credible-and nice reading. Harriet Evatt has shown a wide range in her writing; this isn't up to her best, but she is one of today's worthwhile writers for this age group. Illustrated by author. (Publ.) $2.00

Lovelace, Maud Hart DOWNTOWN Crowell

Another Betsy, Tacy and Tib story - and a good picture of twelve year olds at a time when a "horseless-carriage" was a sensation, when only a few people had telephones in their own houses, and when local stock companies were a pivot of interest to all ages. These stories are tops as live and credible little girl adventure. I think the Lois Lenski drawings are disappointingly stylized and ugly.(Publ.) $2.00

Coles, Manning GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST Doubleday, Doran

The well-known mystery-adventure writer for adults has done a rather unusual story for boys (and girls) to whom Latin is a dead language (*period*). Perhaps it will help - it should - for the story is concerned with the discovery of a lost community, Perdita, cut off by a falling mountain from civilization and maintaining through the Christian centuries its identity with the Roman city of the time when the Roman Empire included part of Africa. A curator of the British museum, and his son, an American scientist and his son, joina roughneck whose adventures had brought him into contact with a man who ran a curiosity shop in North Africa, and who had sold him a bracelet which happened to be a mate to one recently stolen from the Museum. They go to investigate the sources - they stumble on Marcu, believed mad - and they piece the puzzle together and visit the lost city, get into trouble - and out again - and learn a great deal adout Romancivilization at first hand. (10/1) $2.00

Neilson, Frances Fullerton MOCHA THE DJUKA Dutton

A story of the jungles of Dutch Guiana (South America) and of the friendship between Mocha, a boy of the jungles and Terry, whose father was head of a scientific expedition. Their friendship grew in spite of hurdles put up by ignorance and superstition (on both sides), and ultimately out of it came a deeper and greater friendship which stood the test of greed and so-called civilization, when Terry's father realized that proclamation of the discovery of gold and precious stones in a secret cave would mean the end of the tribe's way of life - and he kept the secret. The illustrations by Avery Johnson, stipple and woodblock, make this a beautiful book. It is good adventure as well. (Publ.) $2.00

Coatsworth, Elizabeth THIEF ISLAND Macmillan

* This is a first rate story, with a ghost, mystery element, plus good atmospheric background - and a perfectly sound explanation. A tale of how a little family - the father a fisherman, and two children, make a new home and a new career on a lonely island (off the Coast of Maine), and of how a thirteen day storm brings the solution of their problems. This story of the Littles is a good story telling, suspense well-sustained, chatacters convincing. I liked it. (~~10/13~~ 11/16) $1.75

North, Sterling MIDNIGHT AND JEREMIAH Winston

* This successor to *Greased Lightning* is a delightful story of a small boy and a pet black lamb - a story of the hill people in Fulton Corners, Indiana, where they still (in 1910) carded their own wool, spun their own ooverlets, and knitted long stockings. Granny had the best coverlets in the County, and the County Fair

proved enough of a lure, so that she agreed to go and show her coverlets, while Jerry exhibited his black lamb, brought up as a pet and his companion since the mother sheep spurned him. Delightfully written, with enough incident and enough atmosphere to keep one reading. The Kurt Wiese pictures - if they follow those in *Greased Lightning* will give this added impetus. (10/1) $2.00

FACT BOOKS FOR THE 9 - 12's

Campbell, Sam HOW'S INKY Bobbs-Merrill

A wild life sanctuary in Wisconsin provides the setting for this study in natural history at first hand, as three naturalists spend their holidays virtually running an orphanage for baby animals. Mischievous raccoons, a baby fasn, a groundhog, and - favorite of all - a porcupine, Inky. The animals have lessons to teach as well as learn, and eventually they are given their freedom to come and go as they choose. Inky, of them all, has the home feeling, and comes back and back. A good personal experience story in the spirit of friendliness between man and beast. Illustrations by Bob Kuhn are authentic. (Publ.) $1.50

Mason, Miriam E. YOUNG AUDUBON Bobbs-Merrill

Stevenson, Augusta DANIEL BOONE: Boy Hunter Bobbs-Merrill

Wagoner, Jean Brown LOUISA ALCOTT Bobbs-Merrill

Three excellent additions to this biographical series dealing with the boyhoods of famous man. Louisa Alcott is the first woman included in the series, and bids fair to be one of the most popular of the lot. The high standards of the series are maintained by these additions. One could wish *Audubon* had been more complete, for comparatively little has been written for young people about him. This, however, should provide a springboard for the Rourke book, and after that the Peattie....The *Daniel Boone* has somewhat more fictional feel than the others - and makes surefire pioneer-Indian reading. *Louise Alcott* makes the perfect follow through for those girls who have read *Little Women* and its sequels, and want more about the author. All of the books in this series provide the ideal opportunity for further reading suggestions, both in libraries (school and public) and in bookshops. (Publ.)Each $1.50

FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS - Fiction

Meese, Mildred Foulke MARY CARSTENS, M.D. Bobbs-Merrill

* Mary Carstens was introduced to her audience in *Wagon to the Star*, when she was an ambitious young person in an orphan asylum, braving the world in a city High School. The series has taken her through college, medical school, and now - a graduate, she is serving her interneship. One of the best of such series, these have built up an interest in a number ofcharacters, many of whom are brought into this last book, which ends with a wedding at the Orphanage. Good career book material - vocational slant on some of the discoveries of modern medicine; enough adventure and incident; a good picture of the problems women are up against in medicine, even today, and a bit of romance. Illustrated by Sandra James. (Publ.) $2.00

Lansing, Elizabeth NANCY NAYLOR FLIES SOUTH Crowell

Nancy (see previous books in series) is now a stewardess on the South American run of Consolidated Airlines, and manages to be a pretty fair detective on the side. Sabotage forces the plane down in the jungle - the exhausted passengers make their way back to civilization - and Nancy goes back on the job, this time getting involved in an abduction of a diplomat. This is definitely more of an adventure story than a flying story. (September) $2.00

Mallette, Gertrude WENDERLEY Doubleday, Doran

Trailer camps have sprung up around defense plants, and sooner or later there will be a first rate story against that setting. This falls short on several counts, though the idea is a good one. It is a story of two girls whose parents are working, and who attempt to put into effect various ideas for improving the camp. It is rather hit or miss - but the idea of everyone doing his (or her) bit for the good of all is almost too obviously put over. Romantic backdrop - with both girls attempting to keep their own personal problems out of it - ends on an optimistic note. (10/1) $2.00

Sasse, Alma Benecke TERRY CARVEL'S THEATER CARAVAN Doubleday, Doran

As a career story of a girl who works up through amateur trials and tribulations to the larger trials and tribulations of directing a repertory theater in a college town this is adequately handled, with various jobs presented graphically. But, unfortunately, the plot limps badly, the romance is obvious and stilted, and the style amateurish and full of clichés. Too bad - a good vocational book on theater would be welcome. (10/15 $2.00

Seredy, Kate THE OPEN GATE Viking

Kate Seredy knows the section of NewYork State where her story is laid; she knows something of the weal and woe of amateurs turned farmers, but she has not been able to resist making a way of life she loves herself sound almost too easy for the city-minded family, bound for a modern camp, sidetracked to a farm by a country-minded grandmother. Aside from this criticism, the book reads easily and delightfully, the boys and girls and the grown-ups are real people, and the American ideals are not too obviously instilled. Kate Seredy's own pictures will be as charming as ever, one can be sure. (Junior Guild) Late ~~October~~. ~~11/20~~ 11/12 $2.50

FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS - Non-fiction

Mayo, Barbara HENRY CLAY Farrar & Rinehart

* Excellent biography of a great figure in the American scene whose life was so intimately interwoven with events in the country's history, that his biography is virtually a history of the period from 1780 to 1850, encompassing the end of the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the clamorous beginnings of the Civil War. Clay himself - from childhood on to old age, is presented objectively, through story and dialogue and - from time to time - his own writings. The biographer has succeeded in telling his story vividly, at the same time with an authentic note. (10/~~7~~21) $2.00

Gollomb, Joseph & Taylor, Alice YOUNG HEROES OF THE WAR Vanguard

* This is different. It is not a "repeat" on previous books retelling the heroic stories of young men in the armed forces. Actually, only one story deals with a boy in the service; the rest are children of all warring nations and captive nations who are making their contribution, either as guerillas or partisans, or in less spectacular exploits which show the stuff of which they are made. Courage, fortitude, endurance, ingenuity, hardihood - these are not solely attributes of maturity. Two boys of the Dutch Indies; a girl of Yugoslavia; a group of Russian youngsters; a Belgian lad working with the underground; a Chinese child of six who carried his baby sister to safety; a Norwegian boy who refused to be denied the right to fight for his country; an English boy who carried on through the worst of the Blitz and fire, in spite of having five bicycles virtually shot from under him - of such substance are "young heroes of the war" created. Good family reading. (10/5) $2.50

Nolan, Jeannette Covert HOOSIER CITY: *Story of Indianapolis* Messner

Miss Nolan has done a good job with difficult material - the human story of the making of a city. She has told her history through successive people who created and directed it. She has avoided making her text a guide book. But it is hard to see wherin lies any possibility - outside of supplementary reading - of making this sort of book of particular interest to a general market outside its own obvious locale. This is the first of a new series, biographies of American cities. There are cities whose story is so dramatic that they have general appeal. But Indianapolis - even after reading this text which assuredly makes the city more interesting than it has seemed previously, to an "outlander" - Indianapolis is not one of those. From trail blazing and deliberate selection of a site for a capital city, the story goes through all phases of the country's history, a sounding board for mood and tempo and period, with its seamy side not glossed over, with its colorful figures given full play, figures prominent in history, in politics, in art and literature..In the effort to keep it from being too much a chronological history, she has fallen into the mistake of assuming too much history background. Definitely a book to be used - in school libraries and public libraries - along with history and geography, progressively taught. Illustrated by George Jo Mess. (The series is to be edited by Leo Lerman) $2.75

ADULT BOOKS FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS

Fiction

O'Hara, Mary THUNDERHEAD Lippincott

My Friend Flicka has already become virtually a juvenile classic. This is, to some extent, more adult, in that there is a good deal of space given to conflict within marriage as Ken's parents face a difficult period of adjustment to failure. But in the main it is again a boy and horse story, as Ken faces the problems involved in rearing Flicka's colt, Thunderhead, sired by a famous racer, a throwback to the wild white stallion. Three years of a colt's life - good adventure - and at the close, Ken accepting a concesstion to the wild dominant strain. For fuller report see P. 348. (10/6) $2.75

Lamond, Henry G. KILGOUR'S MARE Morrow

Episodes on an Australian stockfarm, drawn with real understanding of horses and their psychology, their traditions; not straight story but episodic in treatment. Cascae is a new mare on the stockfarm, and her foal, Amathea, becomes the special darling of the manager. The round of her life is traced, - branding, breaking, training as a stockhorse, winning of a race, and the pattern repeated in her own foal. Illustrated in black and white by Lajos Segner. (For fuller report see P.353) (10/27) $2.00

Perry, George Sessions-*ed.* ROUND-UP TIME Whittlesey House

It's all there, sheriffs and vigilantes, Indians and cowmen, hoaxes and hardship and a general lusty spirit of the region. There is fiction and there is fact some of the material is definitely not "juvenile", but there is so much that older boys would like that it might well be included in recommendations. La Farge, Richter, Steinbeck, Vestal, O'Henry, Frank Dobie, James, and others. See report P. 350. (10/4) $3.00

ADULT BOOKS FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS - Non-fiction

Van Der Veer, Judy — A FEW HAPPY ONES — Appleton-Century

Experiences with a California stockfarm and ranch - stories connected primarily with the animals (lambs, sheep, ducks, bulls, cows, horses, goats, dogs and cats. They complicate life but provide plenty of entertainment. There is fire, storm, marooning, bogging down; there are characters sad and gay; there are incidents of ranching life. Drawings by Edward Shenton. (For full report see P. 356) (9/17) $2.50

Haynes, Williams — THE CHEMICAL FRONT — Knopf

This Chemical Age has proved very successful with budding scientists. This is another sound, dramatic popularization of chemistry, history, discovery and development of vital products and synthetics for all phases of warfare. There's a wide range of things wholly new or only half familiar, incisive information on contributions chemistry and biochemistry are making to war - and will make to peace, - plastics, smokeless gunpowder, incendiaries, sulfa drugs, serums and vaccines, plasma, dehydrated foods, nylon, etc. etc. (For full report see P. 362) (10/18) $3.00

Chapman, Paul W. — CHICKEN RAISING MADE EASY — Macmillan

Designed for the small flock owners, with limited time, space and money. The emphasis is on the confinement methods, feed ready mixed, labor saving processes. There is adequate information on investment and costs, equipment, care, breeding, storage of eggs, freezing of chickens, etc. Excellent how-to-do book. (Full report P. 362) (10/19) $2.00

Gamow, George — MR. TOMPKINS EXPLORES THE ATOM — Macmillan

This is definitely limited to students interested in atomic structure - fairly advanced students of physics. In the vein of *Mr. Tompkins in Wonderland*, much of what atoms consist of and how they work are made comprehensible to the lay mind. Mr. Tompkins falls asleep over some professorial discourses on atoms, electrons, neutrons - and dreams graphic dreams. (For full report see P. 359) (9/28) $2.00

French, Joseph L.-*Ed.* — GREAT SEA STORIES — Tudor Publ. Co.

Twenty nine stories, fact and fiction, news stories of the present war, classics of the sea, an excellent collection, varied enough to provide something for everyone. This is, in the main, based on a 2-volume compilation, with some up to date material passed,- some of it (The Raft) in full; some excerpts. (For full report see P. 366) $2.50

Bromley, Joseph — CLEAR THE TRACKS! — Whittlesey House

Railroading of the '90's as experienced by the author from the time he tried to get his first railroading job at sixteen. The emphasis is on the old times rather than the new, the sounds, the smells, the lingo of his day, engines and their engineers, conductors, the shift from wood to coal, stories of fellow trainmen, of comic incidents, of near tragedies, of passengers, of weather hazards, etc. (Full report P. 355) (9/9) $2.75

Partridge, Bellamy — EXCUSE MY DUST — Whittlesey House

Tom Hunter was not cut out to be a farmer, but it took a violent quarrel with his father to oust him from the farm and set him on the road to working with machinery, on which his heart was set. It is Tom's story-but it is also the story of early days of the "horseless carriage" and the repercussions in the town of Phelps, New York. Amusing, human, with some thread of nostalgic recreation. (Full report P. 362) (10/19) $2.00

A CALENDAR OF NEW BOOKS FOR OCTOBER

F I C T I O N

CONTEMPORARY

October 6- O'Hara, Mary	(S)	THUNDERHEAD (Lippincott)	$2.75	348
October 18-Frank, Bruno		ONE FAIR DAUGHTER (Viking)	$2.75	318
October 18-Hecht, Ben		MIRACLE IN THE RAIN (Knopf)	$1.00	406
October 25-Bemelmans, Ludwig		NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP (Viking)	$2.50	407
October 25-Weston, Christine		INDIGO (Scribner)	$2.75	348
October ??-Bristow, Gwen		TOMORROW IS FOREVER (Crowell)	$2.50	382
October ??-Flavin, Martin		JOURNEY IN THE DARK (Harper)	$2.75	381
October ??-Gilligan, Edmund	(S)	THE RINGED HORIZON (Scribner)	$2.75?	383

HISTORICAL AND REGIONAL

October 15-Lancaster, G.B.		GRAND PARADE (Reynal & Hitchcock)	$2.75	380
October 22-Marshall, Rosamond		KITTY (Duell, Sloan & Pearce)	$2.50	381
PP October 25-Bellamann, Henry		VICTORIA GRANDOLET (Simon & Schuster)	$2.75	347
October ??-Caldwell, Taylor		JOHN TURNBULL (Scribner)	$3.00	324
~~October~~ ??-Forbes, Esther 11/9		JOHNNY TREMAIN (Houghton Mifflin)	$2.50	405

THRILLERS

October 1- Charteris, Leslie	(S)	THE SAINT STEPS IN (Doubleday Doran)	$2.00	327
October 4- Coxe, George Harmon	(S)	MURDER IN HAVANA (Knopf)	$2.00	327
October 8- Wilson, Mitchell	(S)	STALK THE HUNTER (Simon & Schuster)	$2.00	354
October ??-Collins, Mary		SISTER OF CAIN (Scribner	$2.00	276

N O N - F I C T I O N

THE WAR

September 30-Rhodes, Anthony	(S)	SWORD OF BONE (Harcourt Brace)	$2.50	385
October 1- Mitchell, Ruth		THE SERBS CHOOSE WAR (Doubleday)	$2.75	328
October 21-Ingersoll, Ralph	(S)	THE BATTLE IS THE PAY OFF (HB)	$2.00	301
11-10 ~~October 27~~-Hardison, Priscilla	(S)	THE SUZY-Q (Houghton Mifflin)	$2.00	419
October 28-Pyle, Ernie Here Is Your Wa	(S)	~~WITH THE YANKS IN AFRICA~~ (Holt)	$3.00	413
11-9 October ??-Camp, William M.	(S)	RETREAT, HELL! (Appleton-Century)	$2.75	414
October ??-Chamberlin, Wm. H.		THE RUSSIAN ENIGMA (Scribner)	$3.50	393

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

October 4- Beard, Charles A.		THE REPUBLIC (Viking)	$3.00	336
October 11-Aldington, Richard		THE DUKE (Viking)	$3.75	307
October 15-Cross, Wilbur L.		CONNECTICUT YANKEE (Yale)	$5.00	361
October 25-Hathaway, Katherine B.		THE LITTLE LOCKSMITH (Coward McCann)	$2.50	413
11-5 ~~October 27~~-Canby, Henry S.		WALT WHITMAN (Houghton Mifflin)	$3.50	419
11-9 ~~October 27~~-Benton, Jesse James		COW BY THE TAIL (Houghton Mifflin)	$3.00	419
October ??-Fairchild, David		GARDEN ISLANDS OF THE GREAT EAST (Sc)	$3.75	309

MISCELLANEOUS

October 1- Sousa, John P. III	(S)	MY FAMILY, RIGHT OR WRONG (DD)	$2.00	334
October 6- Kane, Harnett T.		THE BAYOUS OF LOUISIANA (Morrow)	$3.50	335
October 20-Crow, Carl		THE GREAT AMERICAN CUSTOMER (Harper)	$3.00	389
October 20-Shapley, Rapport, etc.		A TREASURY OF SCIENCE (Harper)	$3.95	416
October 21-Nash, Walter		NEW ZEALAND (Duell Sloan & Pearce)	$3.50	330
~~October 22~~-Menefee, Selden Nov 15		ASSIGNMENT U.S.A. (Reynal & Hitchcock)	$3.00	417